

The Dance Hall
Northeast corner of South Pass Avenue and
Dakota Street
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-35

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

THE DANCE HALL

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Location: Northeast corner of South Pass Avenue and Dakota Street, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680700.4703980.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Use: Preserved by Wyoming Recreation Commission for restoration as a possible meeting hall.

Statement of Significance: This building was used as a dance hall and community center for South Pass City in the 1890's and early 1900's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1890.
2. Architect: Unknown. It is possible that William Sherlock designed and built this building.
3. Original and subsequent owners: (Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The original owner of the Dance Hall was probably William Sherlock. It was constructed ca. 1890 and served as a dance hall and community center at the turn of the century. However, by 1924, it was no longer being used. In 1949, William Sherlock, for \$10 and other consideration, sold his share of the Wolverine Lode Claim to James Sherlock. The Wolverine claim includes the land upon which the dance hall is located. In the 1960's, by verbal agreement, the Sherlock family gave the dance hall to the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Bane, John, resident of South Pass City since 1926; interview in South Pass City, Wyoming on June 23, 1973.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City, Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: An example of a simple frontier building in South Pass City, within which a wide variety of activities were accommodated.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 21' x 32'-9", one-story.
2. Foundations: The foundations are a random rubble local red slate shist laid without mortar.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The exterior walls are hand-hewn unfinished lodgepole pine logs, originally with mud chinking.
4. Structural system, framing: The log walls are bearing walls with roof framing of rough-sawn 2 x 6 joists and rafters at forty inches on center.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: A wooden entrance stoop of two steps has deteriorated except for the partial remains of the two stringers.
6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Original south entrance of double-leaf doors had a single light in the upper half of each door. A part of the east leaf remains.
- b. Windows: Large fixed-pane windows approximately 42" x 78" are located in the front wall on each side of the entrance door.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A gable roof with wooden shingles.
- b. Eaves: A boxed-in eave with fascia board, nine inch overhang.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: The building consists of a single room.
- 2. Stairways: None.
- 3. Flooring: Random width rough-sawn wooden planking.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls show evidence of having been muslin covered with wall paper over the interior face of the exterior logs. The ceiling shows no evidence of being covered.
- 5. Doorways and doors: None.

D. Site:

- 1. General orientation: The building, facing just west of south, is at the northeast corner South Pass Avenue and Dakota Street and just north of Willow Creek.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recrea-

tion Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.